

# The Canadian Entomologist.

VOL. XXXII.

LONDON, FEBRUARY, 1900.

No. 2

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## A NEW SPECIES OF PLANT-LOUSE INJURIOUS TO VIOLETS.

BY THEODORE PERGANDE, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Among several species of insects which have lately come to the notice of the Division of Entomology of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, through their ravages upon greenhouse violets, is a little species of plant-louse known to florists as the black or brown aphid. The species is now very generally distributed in the United States and occurs in Canada, although it was not known until within five or six years from the time of writing. As it appears to be undescribed, I propose the specific name *violæ*, and have placed it in the genus *Rhopalosiphum*, to which it appears to belong. The following description is submitted, pending a more detailed account of the injuries and a consideration of remedies which it is expected will shortly be published by the Department of Agriculture.

*Rhopalosiphum violæ*, n. sp.

Apterous females dark cherry-brown and polished, the larvæ and pupæ generally somewhat paler. Eyes dark brown, third joint of antennæ more or less distinctly of a paler colour than the body, the remaining joints black. Legs purplish, the femora darkest towards the end and the apex of the tibiæ and the tarsi black. Nectaries purplish. Head and thorax of the pupæ generally paler than the rest of the body.

Winged females also dark cherry-brown or purplish-brown, the antennæ, thoracic lobes, terminal two-thirds or more of femora, apex of tibiæ and tarsi black; rest of the legs of a dull yellowish colour, with a tinge of purple. Nectaries and tail dusky. Wings clear, the veins strong and black and conspicuously shaded; stigma black; stigmal vein short

and strongly curved. Antennæ of all, very long and slender, reaching considerably beyond the end of the body; joint six with its spur is much longer than the third, joints four and five are subequal in length, and each of them somewhat longer than the third; there are numerous sensorial tubercles on joint three and a few on joint four, while all of them are sharply serrate. The first joint is very much the stoutest, and bulging out strongly about the middle at the inner side; frontal tubercles prominent and gibbous at the inner apical angle. Legs long and slender. Nectaries clavate, reaching to the tip of the abdomen. Tail short and inconspicuous. Length of winged and apterous females about 1.6 mm. expanse of wings about 5 mm.

Type No. 4,467, U. S. National Museum. Many specimens. Type locality, Washington. D. C.

This is a singularly handsome species, which in the peculiarly short and strongly curved stigmal vein and strongly shaded venation reminds one of *Callipterus*; while the gibbous frontal tubercles recall those of some species of *Myzus*. There is also a queer tendency of losing one or both branches of the third discoidal vein, the stigmal and sometimes one or both of the veins of the hind wings. In one of the wings of one specimen the second and third discoidals arise from the same spot, while these two veins of the other wing arise from a common petiole.

These plant-lice are very numerous at the crown of violet plants, preventing the young leaves from unfolding or checking their development. Many are also found in the petioles and on the under side of the leaves.

#### ON TWO GENERA OF MITES.

BY NATHAN BANKS, EAST END, VA.

In 1871, Thorell published his description of *Rhagidia* in a paper entitled, "Om Arachnider fran Spetsbergen och Beeren-Eiland." He placed it in the family *Eupodidae*, from the other genera of which it differed principally in the great size of the mandibles. In 1876, Cambridge, in his paper "On a new Order and some new Genera of Arachnida from Kerguelen's Land," described *Pacilophysis* as the type of a new family and a new order. He was unaware of Thorell's mite, yet there is but one prominent difference between them, *Pacilophysis* is said to have eyes on the frontal tubercle. Neither of these authors gave any reference to any species of Koch's genus *Scyphius*, to which their forms bear a great resemblance. Koch described about a dozen species of this